

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by rewriting same to read as follows:

Page 3, please amend the paragraph commencing at line 26 by rewriting same to read as follows:

To solve the above problems, according to the invention of ~~Claim 1~~, there is provided a data decoding apparatus comprising: decoding means for decoding encoded or encrypted digital data; memory means for storing monitoring right data; and charge control means for, when the encoded or encrypted data is decoded, changing the monitoring right data in the memory means in accordance with an instruction of reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data, thereby performing a charging process.

Page 4, please amend the paragraphs commencing at lines 9, 16, and 22 by rewriting same to read as follows:

According to the invention of ~~Claim 11~~, there is provided a data decoding method comprising the steps of: decoding encoded or encrypted digital data; and when the encoded or encrypted data is decoded, changing stored monitoring right data in accordance with an instruction of reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data, thereby performing a charging process.

According to the invention of ~~Claim 12~~, there is provided a charge information processing apparatus for relaying monitoring right data between a settlement center and a data decoding apparatus, wherein the apparatus is constructed as a portable type so that it can be shared among a plurality of data decoding apparatuses.

According to the invention of ~~Claim 18~~, there is provided a charge information processing apparatus for relaying monitoring right data between a settlement center and a data decoding apparatus, comprising: communicating means which can be directly connected to the settlement center through wire or radio communicating means or can be connected thereto by relaying another apparatus; means for safely obtaining the monitoring right data from the settlement center; memory means for storing the monitoring right data; and an interface having means for safely transferring a part or all of the monitoring right data to/from an external apparatus.

Page 5, please amend the paragraphs commencing at lines 7, 16, and 26 by rewriting same to read as follows:

According to the invention of ~~Claim 24~~, there is provided a charge information processing apparatus for relaying monitoring right data between a settlement center and a data decoding apparatus, comprising: an interface having means for safely transferring a part or all of the monitoring right data to/from

an external apparatus; and memory means for storing the monitoring right data, wherein the interface can transfer the monitoring right data to/from an IC card.

According to the invention of ~~Claim 28~~, there is provided a charge information processing method of relaying monitoring right data between a settlement center and a data decoding apparatus, comprising the steps of: directly connecting to the settlement center through wire or radio communicating means or connecting thereto by relaying another apparatus; safely obtaining the monitoring right data from the settlement center; storing the monitoring right data; and safely transferring a part or all of the monitoring right data to/from an external apparatus.

According to the invention of ~~Claim 29~~, there is provided a data reproducing apparatus for reproducing compression encoded and/or encrypted digital data, comprising a decoding apparatus for decoding the digital data, wherein

the decoding apparatus has: decoding means for decoding the encoded or encrypted digital data; memory means for storing monitoring right data; and charge control means for, when the encoded or encrypted data is decoded, changing the monitoring right data in the memory means in accordance with an instruction of reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data, thereby performing a charging process.

Page 6, please amend the paragraphs commencing at lines 12, and 21 by rewriting same to read as follows:

According to the invention of ~~Claim 30~~, there is provided a

data reproducing method of reproducing compression encoded and/or encrypted digital data, comprising the steps of: decoding the encoded or encrypted digital data; and when the encoded or encrypted digital data is decoded, changing stored monitoring right data in accordance with an instruction of reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data, thereby performing a charging process.

According to the invention ~~of Claim 31~~, there is provided a charge information processing apparatus in which compression encoded and/or encrypted software is distributed free of charge and a charging process is performed when the distributed software is decoded, comprising: means which can be connected to a user terminal in which past use history information of software in a user device has been stored through wire or radio communicating means; and authentication/encrypting means for safely transmitting and receiving use right data to/from the user terminal, wherein when the use right data is sold to the user terminal, the use history information is transferred from the user terminal.

Page 7, please amend the paragraphs commencing at lines 7, 20, 23, and 27 by rewriting same to read as follows:

According to the invention ~~of Claim 39~~, there is provided a charge information processing method in which compression encoded and/or encrypted software is distributed free of charge and a charging process is performed when the distributed software is decoded, comprising the steps of: connecting to a user terminal

in which past use history information of software in a user device has been stored through wire or radio communicating means; performing authentication/encryption for safely transmitting or receiving use right data to/from the user terminal; and when the use right data is sold to the user terminal, transferring the use history information from the user terminal.

According to the invention ~~of Claim 40~~, there is provided electronic money having an effect corresponding to cash, wherein its use period is limited.

According to the invention ~~of Claim 41~~, there is provided an electronic use right for enabling the use of software such as reproduction of contents or the like, wherein its use period is limited.

According to the invention ~~of Claim 42~~, there is provided a system in which electronic money or an electronic use right whose use period is limited and electronic money or an electronic use right whose use period is not limited exist mixedly.

Page 8, please amend the paragraphs commencing at lines 5 and 16 by rewriting same to read as follows:

According to the invention ~~of Claim 49~~, there is provided a decoding apparatus comprising: a decoding unit for performing a decoding process to compressed and/or encrypted data which was read out from a medium and includes data regarding reproducing conditions; a storing unit for storing monitoring right data; and a control unit for, when the read-out data is decoded by the

decoding unit in the case where the read-out data is data as a target of charging, performing a changing process to the monitoring right data stored in the storing unit on the basis of the data regarding the reproducing conditions separated by the decoding unit.

According to the invention of ~~Claim 64~~, there is provided a reproducing apparatus comprising: a decoding unit for performing a decoding process to compressed and/or encrypted data which was read out from a medium and includes data regarding reproducing conditions; a storing unit for storing monitoring right data; a control unit for, when the read-out data is decoded by the decoding unit in the case where the read-out data is data as a target of charging, performing a changing process to the monitoring right data stored in the storing unit on the basis of the data regarding the reproducing conditions separated by the decoding unit; an operation unit which is operated by the user; and a system control unit for supplying a control signal to the control unit on the basis of an input from the operation unit.

Page 9, please amend the paragraph commencing at line 3 by rewriting same to read as follows:

According to the invention of ~~Claim 81~~, there is provided a terminal apparatus comprising: a first transmitting and receiving unit for transmitting and receiving at least monitoring right data to/from a communicating unit of a reproducing apparatus having a decoding unit for performing a decoding process to

compressed and/or encrypted data which was read out from a medium and includes data regarding reproducing conditions, a storing unit for storing the monitoring right data and data regarding a reproduction history, a control unit for, when the read-out data is decoded by the decoding unit in the case where the read-out data is data as a target of charging, performing a changing process to the monitoring right data stored in the storing unit on the basis of the data regarding the reproducing conditions separated by the decoding unit, and the communicating unit; a second transmitting and receiving unit for transmitting and receiving at least the monitoring right data to/from an outside; and a data holding unit for holding a monitoring right obtained from the outside through the second transmitting and receiving unit and holding individual identification data.